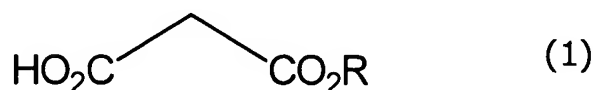


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein R represents

- (a) C1-C6 alkylcarbonyloxy C1-C2 alkyl optionally substituted by cyclohexyl,
- (b) phenylcarbonyloxy C1-C2 alkyl in which the phenyl part is optionally substituted by C1-C4 alkyl,
- (c) C1-C6 alkoxy carbonyloxy C1-C2 alkyl optionally substituted by cyclohexyl,
- (d) phenyloxy carbonyloxy C1-C2 alkyl in which the phenyl part is optionally substituted by C1-C4 alkyl,
- (e) unsubstituted C3-C6 cycloalkyloxy carbonyloxy C1-C2 alkyl, or
- (f) unsubstituted 2-oxo-5-(C1-C4 alkyl)-1,3-dioxolen-4-ylmethyl.

25. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

monoacetyloxymethyl malonate,
monopivaloyloxymethyl malonate,
mono-2,4-dimethylbenzoyloxymethyl malonate,
mono-1-(ethoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
mono-1-(isopropoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
monocyclohexyloxy carbonyloxymethyl malonate,
mono-1-(cyclohexyloxy carbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
mono-1-(phenoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
mono-2-oxo-5-methyl-1,3-dioxolen-4-ylmethyl malonate,
mono-1-(2,2-dimethylpropoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
mono-1-(2-cyclohexylethoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,

mono-1-(isobutoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl malonate,
monoisopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl malonate,
monoisopentoxycarbonyloxymethyl malonate,
monoisobutylcarbonyloxymethyl malonate, and
mono-1-ethylpropylcarbonyloxymethyl malonate.